



SQUIRE AND PARTNERS

Left The Harley Building in central London by Squire and Partners  
Below Ysgol Bae Baglan school in Neath, Port Talbot by Stride Treglown

## 012 Squire and Partners

Squire and Partners' new Brixton studio space is helping it weather the uncertainties of 2017 by taking the practice in a new direction.

The firm's core business of high-value residential development in London took a knocking following the collapse of confidence caused by stamp duty rises and the Brexit vote. The result has been a fall in overall revenues from £23.66 million to £18.62 million and a drop in overall architect numbers from 122 to 113 – leaving the practice once again just outside the AJ100 top 10 following a brief re-entry last year.

62

The biggest challenge has been the switch from the lucrative design and delivery roles of the past to more limited concept work at home and abroad. 'We have to win four new jobs for every one new job we would have had two years ago,' says practice founder Michael Squire.

Fortunately, the practice's extraordinary conversion of a disused Brixton department store into a new studio, restaurant and creative work hub has created a raft of new opportunities in previously unmined sectors.

'In the first four months of this year we have had more new enquiries than ever before,' says Squire, explaining how the eccentrically restored symbol of 'ruined decadence' had caught the attention of the capital's burgeoning workspace industry, resulting in several new commissions, including a workspace and members' club for Ministry of Sound.

Looking ahead, Squire says: 'Our aspiration and ambition is to continue doing what we have done for the last year or two, finding new places to secure work, building on the reputation The Department Store is giving us and, hopefully, thereby sustaining ourselves.' MF

113 qualified architects in UK  
£93,557 UK office architecture fees per member of UK architecture staff  
42 years of practice  
44% female architects in UK  
5% BAME architects in UK  
2 design awards won in 2017



## =013 Stride Treglown

Following a period of growth, 2017 was a year of consolidation for Stride Treglown, with a 'steady' performance reflected in its static head count of 111 UK architects.

That figure is likely to rise this year, however, as the nine-centre practice looks to grow its Birmingham office, formed through the acquisition of Bournville Architects in 2016, and to add staff in London, Winchester and Manchester.

Major projects for the employee-owned company, which is nearing completion of a refurbishment of its Grade II\*-listed Bristol headquarters in its 65th anniversary year, include a £50 million cruise liner terminal for Liverpool. On the back of that appointment the firm is looking at other cruise terminals in Europe and the Middle East, where it hopes to re-enter the market following the closure of its Abu Dhabi office by working with Noon Stride, a local company in which Stride Treglown is a shareholder.

The practice has a 'varied diet', according to chairman David Hunter, with universities continuing to provide a rich source of work. Projects completed in 2017 include the £50 million Bristol Business School for the University of West of England. Its £35 million Ysgol Bae Baglan school won the National Eisteddfod of Wales Gold Medal for Architecture.

Hunter says the firm is building on Bournville Architects' legacy of creating communities and social housing by helping developers with placemaking. It also wants to do more masterplanning; its recent clients in this field include Bristol Airport.

Hunter is 'cautious' about business prospects, however. 'I think we have been in the recent past really quite concerned about how things will work out through 2018,' he says. 'As we approach 2019 it will really be very interesting to see how things go and then the transition period beyond that [following the UK's withdrawal from the EU].' KY

111 qualified architects in UK  
£69,613 UK office architecture fees per member of UK architecture staff  
65 years of practice  
31% female architects in UK  
2% BAME architects in UK  
15 design awards won in 2017



STRIDE TREGLOWN